



November, 1995

Volume XXVI, No. 10

FREE

How Safe Are Bus Lines That Serve Potrero Hill?

By Michael Mattis

Muni's 15 Third Street bus line last July became the most dangerous route in the city.

The 15, which runs from North Beach to Visitacion Valley and serves the eastern foot of Potrero Hill, was ranked first among the city's 10 most troubled bus lines, according to a Police Transit Company report for the months of July, August and September.

"We've had a whole bunch of trouble in the Visitacion Valley area" aboard the 15 line, said Police Transit Company Captain Richard Hesselroth, who notes that in the past the 15 has not been among the worst lines. "Starting in mid-July it just took off and in September it's just awful."

"We are planning a lot of activity out there," said Hesselroth.

The five lines serving Potrero Hill are the 15 Third Street, 19 Polk, 22 Fillmore, 48 Quintara, and the 53 Southern Heights. The report indicated 35 incidents were reported on the 15 in July, 58 in August, and 69 in September. However, most of this increase, the report said, occurred in the Visitacion Valley area, near Sunnydale, Santos, and Hahn Streets.

The 19 and 22 lines were also highly ranked for incidents. The 22 line, which snakes from the Marina Green almost to the shore of Central Basin, reported 21 incidents in July, and 15 in August, but then fell off the most-troubled list in September. The 19, which comes from Aquatic Park to climb Potrero's Rhode Island Street, reported similar numbers, also falling off the list in September.

Neither the 48 line, on which passenger David Adams was assaulted recently nor the 53, made it onto the list. The report, which also listed the most hazardous streets and intersections for Muni incidents, did not mention any Potrero Hill streets or intersections.

Although except for the 15, Potrero Hill buses showed a decrease over the three-month period, overall there has been a marked increase in the number of incidents reported citywide. The total number of incidents reported rose from 399 in July to 506 in September. According to Hesselroth, the increase is in part seasonal, but has been boosted by the increased activity aboard the 15 in the Visitacion Valley area.

Hesselroth advises passengers to use common sense when waiting for or riding the bus.



Children were treated to face painting by Neighborhood House volunteers at the Potrero Hill Festival Oct. 14. Highlights of the 7th Annual event are pictured on Pages 10 and 11.

Ruth Possen photo

Permit Parking Draws Heated Opposition

By Jeff Wood

Angry residents from the area surrounding San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) stole the show at the Oct. 5 meeting in Carr Auditorium regarding the Residential Permit Parking Program (RPPP) set to begin in July 1996.

John Newlin, Executive Director of the Department of Parking and Transportation (DPT), on hand to finalize the program's boundaries and discuss time limitations, said the meeting was "one of the most spirited" he has seen.

Residents opposed to the program spoke frequently — sometimes with raised voices. Their comments, which often expressed general anti-government sentiment or insults directed at Newlin, were met with applause from many other members of the crowd.

Program opponents often accused the city and hospital of being in collusion to make money from the RPPP and the hospital garage — the city through parking citations from the RPPP, and SFGH through parking fees from the garage. The RPPP will begin in conjunction with the opening of the hospital garage.

Other less vocal residents — particularly those from the program's outskirts — said they had no parking problem in their neighborhood and questioned the need for the RPPP, under which a permit will cost \$21 per vehicle per year.

Newlin urged residents opposed to the RPPP to send his office signed petitions by block requesting removal from the program.

For a time nearly all of the 70 attendees appeared to oppose the program but residents in favor of the program spoke up and Newlin set an Oct. 31 deadline for

(Continued on Page 4)

Muni Assault Victim Sues City for Failure to Equip Vehicle With Required Security Apparatus

Concerns over the safety of the five bus lines serving Potrero Hill were raised after attorneys for assault victim David Adams filed a suit against the city last month.

Adams became one of 75 passengers assaulted while riding Muni buses between July 1 and Sept 30, when he was pulled off the 48 Quintara line on Arkansas Street Sept. 8 by a gang of youths, robbed and beaten so severely that he now suffers permanent brain damage, and may have to live the rest of his life in a special care facility.

The lawsuit contends that Muni and the City are responsible for the injuries sustained by Adams during the attack because "Muni failed to properly equip the bus with required security precautions, including but not limited to a video camera, a security guard, a rapid response alarm for police intervention in the event of emergency."

The suit filed on Adams' behalf by San Francisco attorneys Arnold Laub and e. robert wallach, also alleges Muni failed to properly train the driver to deal with such emergencies, that the driver allowed obviously intoxicated passengers onto the bus, and that the driver failed

to take proper steps that "would have prevented injury."

To date, only 10 of the 760 buses serving the city's 1,070 round-trip miles during peak hours are equipped with video cameras, according to Muni spokesperson Anne Milner. All of them are on the 14 Mission line. Leased at a cost of \$40,000, the cameras are part of a pilot program begun in May that will go through November. Milner said several lines were equipped with cameras "years ago" but as the buses were cycled out of service the cameras were not replaced for "budgetary reasons."

The Mission line cameras have been an effective deterrent in stopping crime, according to Captain Richard Hesselroth, who commands the 50 police officers of Muni's Police Transit Company. "They have been effective," said Hesselroth. "I would love to have them on every bus in the city if we can figure out a way to cover the maintenance and operational-time cost. With over 700 vehicles on the street at any given time, that's an awful lot of cameras."

From July 1 through Sept. 30 a total of 32 incidents occurred on buses equipped with cameras. Incidents were high

in July and August because of buses in for repair, and broken or vandalized equipment, Hesselroth said, but dropped in half in September, once the cameras were up and in good working order. Although 38 percent of the 14 line's buses were equipped with video and sound-pickup in May, only 7.2 percent of the incidents reported on the line occurred on buses equipped with cameras. Hesselroth notes that the cameras have also been effective in identifying suspects.

"It shows that where video is being used, incidents of any type are going way down," said Hesselroth. "People are acting nicer because they don't want to be filmed being naughty on the bus."

The Mayor's office has earmarked an additional \$300,000 in funding for the video program and another \$300,000 in matching funds may be on the way from a federal grant. The new money will most likely be allocated for the most troubled lines, the 15, 14, 38 and 9, and not for buses serving Potrero Hill, Milner said.

According to Milner, all Muni buses are equipped with a "panic button" that radios Muni Central Control indicating an emergency. The button is

usually reserved for serious situations involving threats to the safety of the driver and passengers, weapons and assaults. Drivers are trained in the appropriate use of the panic button.

New drivers, Milner said, must undergo training that includes "radio and emergency procedures," classes in "passenger relations," and "lectures by Transit Company police on how to handle various situations."

Laub and wallach's suit complains that the driver erred in admitting people who were "obviously intoxicated" onto the bus.

Muni regulations stipulate, according to Milner, that, before a passenger can be ejected from the bus, drivers must "be sure they are justified before requesting a passenger to leave [the] vehicle." "Ejections," as ejections are called in the regulations, may be made after "refusal to pay fare, quarreling, fighting, indecent actions and profane language."

Furthermore, drivers are required to ask the passenger to "cease the offending conduct." Only after "failure to comply" are offending passengers supposed to be "requested to leave the vehicle."

—M.M.

The Potrero View Recommends:

San Francisco Mayor:
Willie L. Brown, Jr.

District Attorney:
Terence Hallinan

Sheriff:
Michael Hennessey

A.....	City Hall Improvement Bonds	YES
B.....	Underground Storage Tank Bonds	YES
C.....	Steinhart Aquarium Improvement Bonds	YES
D.....	Prevailing Wages	YES
E.....	New City Charter	YES
F.....	Youth Commission.....	NO
G.....	Office of Citizen Complaints	YES
H.....	Parking & Traffic	NO
I.....	Taxi Cabs.....	NO
J.....	Muni Audit.....	NO
K.....	City Services	NO, NO, NO
L.....	Youth Curfew	N/R
M.....	Campaign Spending Limits - 2	NO
N.....	Campaign Spending Limits - 1	N/R
O.....	Army Street/Cesar Chavez Street	NO, NO, NO

N/R = No Recommendation

The Propositions: 'Yes' on E, 'No' on F, K and O

Recommendations on various propositions on the San Francisco ballot are the result of considerable study, discussion and debate by members of the View staff. Below, we would like to share with you the reasons for some of our recommendations:

Prop. E — a new City Charter — is enough of an improvement over the current cumbersome, outmoded document that it deserves support. It places more power in those officials who are elected and thus at least theoretically accountable to the voters — the Mayor and Board of Supervisors — and places checks and balances on Commissions, whose members are not elected. Under the new charter, Supervisors will vote on Commission appointments and can have more power to make legislation affecting city departments; the Mayor will choose between three candidates for top department jobs instead of only one. Many seemingly mundane issues that now must go to the voters because they are in the charter will become ordinances and need only a vote of the Board of Supervisors to be changed. Generally these are positive changes, and long overdue. Vote 'Yes' on E.

We certainly believe that the voice of concerned young people should be heard in the halls of city government — but not in isolation from people of other generations and not in a context that isolates "youth issues" from other issues. This is why we recommend a 'No' vote on Prop. F. Bodies such as the Health, Rec/Park, Library, Police and other commissions, as well as the Board of Education, deal with issues of importance to youth. A Mayor's task force of young people could be formed without creating another commission and isolating young people's concerns from those of the rest of the city. Vote 'No' on Prop. F.

Most of the time, we support studying different ways of doing things; after all, a study looks at all sides and makes an objective decision, right? In the case of Prop K — absolutely wrong. This measure, which innocuously promises merely to study the privatization of city services is rigged and one-sided. It only mandates the study of how privatization will "save money" (but not how private vendors raise prices once they have a contract) and how services will be "more efficient" (but not how they are less accountable to the public or diminished in quality). Muni routes, for example, if contracted out, could pick up passengers every four blocks rather than every other block, and Prop. K's study couldn't even cover that reduction in services. We urge a strong 'No' vote on Prop. K.

We find it curious that with all the name changes that have taken place in the streets of San Francisco, the first time people take to the ballot is when a street is named for a well-known Latino labor leader. The vote to make the change followed considerable public debate on turning Army Street into Cesar Chavez Street. We believe the street should remain named for the Farmworkers Union founder. Vote 'No' on Prop. O.

THE VIEW picks Brown, Hallinan and Hennessey

The staff of The Potrero View views this election as the opportunity to replace Frank Jordan as top officeholder of our city. It is not merely disagreement with Jordan's positions on issues that led us to make our endorsement, but our commitment to restore the services, programs, and protections that have been thrown into disarray under Jordan's administration.

The View staff voted to endorse Willie Brown for Mayor precisely because we believe he is the person most capable of that restoration, of ensuring that city departments — whether it be Muni, or the Health Dept. or Park/Rec or others — do what they are supposed to do for the citizens of San Francisco. It is not just that, as some say, Brown can "get things done;" it is that — despite disagreements with him on certain issues, we believe that what he will try to get done is pretty much what needs to get done for the people in this city who want safe and convenient buses, accessible health care, programs for youth, seniors and homeless, and much more. And we believe Brown will try to accomplish these goals with an experienced city workforce that is accountable to the public.

We understand why some readers with whom we often find ourselves in agreement on many issues may be drawn to former Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg. She is a thoughtful woman with many ideas about reforming government, but we are concerned that while policy changes are being debated, crucial services could suffer, that an emphasis on reformism and an attack on many of those who have made San Francisco's liberal tradition a reality could rob the city of badly needed experience and continuity.

We urge a vote for Willie Brown for Mayor.

What is it that we want from a District Attorney? Clearly something we have not been getting from incumbent Arlo Smith, whom the View did not endorse last time he ran, and will not endorse in this election. We want someone who runs a competent office that can ensure the fair and full prosecution of people who break the law in San Francisco. This includes, of course, those guilty of violent crimes; we want those who wage the armed robberies, savage attacks, rapes and other violent crimes in Potrero Hill and elsewhere captured, prosecuted and behind bars. We want an end to decisions made for expedience's sake only or to improve department statistics; we want an end to unwise plea bargains that jeopardize public safety.

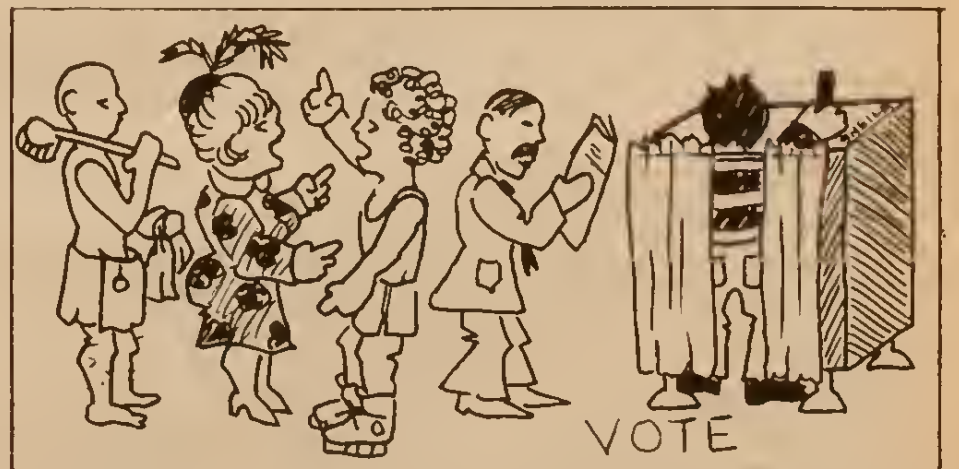
As the city's top law enforcement officer, the District Attorney has the responsibility for enforcing all laws — not only those against violent crimes but those against environmental hazards, labor law violations, lack of building safety, and many others. Which violations are prosecuted depends on one's priorities and one's social vision. We believe that Terence Hallinan has a vision that includes prosecution of violent crimes (he has vowed to make San Francisco a rape-free city and Muni a crime-free zone) but also includes other crucial violations that have been ignored by the incumbent and have not been mentioned by challenger Bill Fazio.

Many of us on the View have known Hallinan for many years, and we have known him to be a tenacious — and often stubborn — fighter for what he believes is right. We believe this will help make him the fighting District Attorney that San Francisco needs.

We urge a vote for Terence Hallinan for District Attorney.

We are always especially pleased to endorse Mike Hennessey for Sheriff of San Francisco. We believe that he does an effective and humane job of running San Francisco's jails, instituting education programs, as well as drug and alcohol abuse counseling. Hennessey is employing a number of alternatives to incarceration when he believes it is appropriate, and is trying to find meaningful solutions to problems of jail overcrowding. In addition, as Sheriff, he is responsible for carrying out evictions in San Francisco, and he attempts to bring a modicum of understanding to this unpleasant task.

We urge you to vote to re-elect Mike Hennessey as Sheriff.



Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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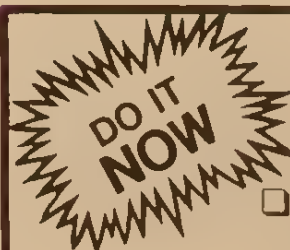
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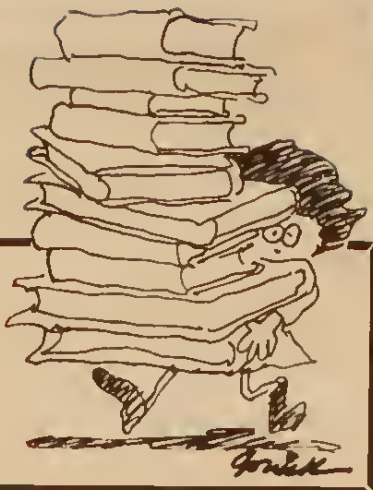
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Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
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LASANA BANDELE—MULTICULTURAL HEADLINER

As part of a month-long, system-wide multicultural festival, we will be hosting Jamaican folksinger and "storitella" Lasana Bandele in an event for middle schoolers on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 1 p.m.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Infant-Toddler Lapsits are Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytimes are Thursdays at 4 p.m. Chapter-book Read Alouds for elementary school-aged children and older are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. This month, we will be completing E.B. White's "The Trumpet of the Swan," and by mid-November we will begin Betsy MacDonald's "Mrs. Pigglewiggie."

THANKS, GUYS!

Look up from your perusals next time you visit us, and notice the enlargements of photos from the Potrero Hill Archives, installed by Peter Linenthal with a little help from library page Steve Patapoff. What a stunning way to be reminded whence we came!

CONDOLENCES

Please share in extending our deepest sympathies to library technician and friend, Amelia Martin, whose sister Norris Jean Mosby passed away on October 12, a victim of Sickle Cell Anemia. Amelia's vigilant care made it possible for Jean to live a much longer and more pleasant life than most who are afflicted by this debilitating disease.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

* Glendinning, Victoria. "Electricity: a Novel." Charlotte Mortimer is a young Victorian woman educated by forward-thinking teachers to believe that true equality for women is possible in the dawn of the age of electricity. Sure-handed evocation of the period.

* Guy, Rosa. "The Sun, the Sea, a Touch of the Wind." Jonnie Dash, a successful, middle-aged African American artist facing the threat of a nervous breakdown, flees New York City for Haiti.

* Ishiguro, Kazuo. "The Unconsoled." With this new novel, cast in the form of a post-modern nightmare, Ishiguro ("The Remains of the Day,") tells a powerful story in which he once again exploits a narrator's utter lack of self-knowledge to create a devastating deadpan irony.

* Wiesel, Elie. "All the Rivers Run to the Sea: Memoir." Memoirs of the Nobel Prize winner.

* Akinsha, Konstantin. "Beautiful Loot: The Soviet Plunder of Europe's Art Treasures." During World War II, hundreds of thousands of pieces of art and whole libraries disappeared into the Soviet cultural gulag. In what could be considered the sequel to "Rape of Europa," Russian historians and museum workers have pieced together a rough outline of how this happened.

TWO VIEWS OF MEXICO . . .

"Two Views of Mexico," a two-part series, will open here on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 2 p.m., with a presentation by David Matsuda, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at Cal State Hayward, a recipient of the Matsuo Yasui Human Rights Award, and a Hill resident. Matsuda's lecture is entitled, "A Cultural History of Mexico." The second event in the series is a documentary film, "Noah's Ark: a Neo-Zapatista Delirium," by Hill resident Caitlin Manning. It will be shown on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 2 p.m. It includes footage of a speech by Subcomandante Marcos at an assembly of peasants in Chiapas two years ago.

. . . AND A JUNKET

We will be at the Guadalajara Book Fair during the last week of November, thanks in part to a grant made available to librarians who serve Spanish-language populations. Our goal here is to upgrade our Spanish-language children's collection, and add adult titles as well.

RED BALLOON—NOVEMBER VIDEO FEATURE

"The Red Balloon" will be shown on Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

NO PLACE LIKE HERE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Lots coming up for all persuasions — as well as the unpersuadable.

HOLIDAY CARD MAKING—ENCORE:

On Saturday, Nov. 11, from noon to 2 p.m., calligrapher Karen Haslag will lead children—ages 7 and up—in making holiday cards. Last year's event produced beautiful work. Don't miss this fun opportunity.

* La Botz, Dan. "Democracy in Mexico: Peasant Rebellion and Political Reform."

* Glosbrenner, Alfred. "Finding a Job on the Internet."

* Kingsolver, Barbara. "High Tide in Tucson: Essays from Now or Never." Non-fiction writings of the popular novelist.

* Guevara, Ernesto. "The Motorcycle Diaries: A Journey Around South America." Che's journal of a motorcycle/hiking tour of South America in 1952 while he was a medical student.

BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

* Emberley, Rebecca. "Three Cool Kids."

* Cleary, Beverly. "My Own Two Feet."

* Colman, Penny. "Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II."

* Greenberg, Keith. "Adolescent Rights: Are Young People Equal Under the Law?"

* Charlip, Remy. "Handtalk Birthday."

Toba Singer
Branch Librarian

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

COURT SETS NEW PLAN FOR SCHOOL:

The 1985-86 school year began at Potrero Hill Middle School (PHMS) with a new administrative staff and promises of change, many in accordance with the goals set by a vocal Hill community. New Middle School Principal Dr. Sam Rodriguez was meeting regularly with the Friends of the Potrero Hill Middle School, a group of parents and community activists, to determine curriculum priorities and how projected Consent Decree funds would be spent to "turn the school around." PHMS was one of three middle schools to be named a Consent Decree school in 1985-86. The others were James Lick and Visitacion Valley.

"EXTENDED FAMILY" PLAN:

A new and unique approach to dealing with problem youngsters was developed at the Potrero Hill Rec Center by director Jon Greenberg. Believing that there was a need for community young adults to become directly involved with youngsters with problems, Greenberg selected 12 role-model adults to initiate the program. These "big brothers" and "big sisters" are expected to maintain close contact with their youngsters, help them with schoolwork, advise them and share some recreational activities.

SWEEPING SCHEDULE CHANGES OPPOSED:

A possible change in street sweeping time on 18th St. was protested back in October 1985 by the 18th Street Merchants of Potrero Hill. Citing the proposal to change the time from 8-10 a.m. to 12-2 p.m., (then owner) Barbara Asimos of Asimakopoulos Cafe pointed out to the Dept. of Public Works that five restaurants in the two-block area would lose lunchtime trade on street sweeping days under such a plan.

THIS AND THAT:

Good Life Grocery operated its seasonal open-air market at the St. Teresa's School parking lot at 450 Connecticut . . . The Potrero Branch Library underwent a face lift with interior fresh paint and a new roof . . . Hill musician/composer/instrument maker Cris Forster, an advocate of "microtonal" music, was profiled . . . Ronnie Gilbert of "The Weavers" was slated to sing at a benefit for the S.F. Gray Panthers . . . Larry Gonick cartooned a reaction to City Supervisors' delay in installing public toilets in the city . . . A zany revival of the Del'Arte Players' "Whiteman Meets Bigfoot" was slated for the Neighborhood House Theater . . . Moshi Moshi and The Ramp were new restaurants opening in the neighborhood . . . San Francisco's share of new state road repair funds was projected at \$6,730,000, leading *The View* to comment: "O.K. — no more excuses for the problems at the northern base of our Hill, huh?"

AND 20 YEARS AGO:

The *View's* endorsed supervisorial candidates for the 1975 election: Enola Maxwell, Harvey Milk, Peter Mendelsohn, Lorraine Lahr, Jesse Tepper, and Arnold Gene Thompson. Other endorsements: George Moscone (Mayor), Carol Ruth Silver (District Attorney), and Richard Hongisto (Sheriff).

— Vas Arnautoff



A Hundred Dogs

Editor:

In response to the letter concerning the control of a dog at the McKinley Square Park, I witnessed the situation and, although unfortunate, it has been blown completely out of proportion. The "dog" is in actuality a five month old puppy, and acting as such did not threaten in any way. The dog owner did not act as the inconsiderate person he is made out to be. To the contrary he was very apologetic about his puppy's actions. The response was to immediately resort to threats of physical violence.

I pass by the park on a regular basis and rarely do I see anyone except dog owners enjoying it. They are a very responsible group who do care about the park, contrary to what some neighbors would have us believe. They keep it clean, and safe from the undesirables that would otherwise frequent the park. As a parent and a neighbor I would rather have 100 dogs and their owners in the park than one man whose only remedy is to resort to physical violence to solve adult issues. Let's all enjoy the park as neighbors.

Concerned Neighbor
Rhode Island Street
Name withheld by request

THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY



If you are searching for a story that ran in the *Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Free Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 23 at St. Teresa's

For the seventh year in a row, Thanksgiving Day will have a special flavor when Asimakopoulos Cafe, St. Teresa's Church, the Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly and dozens of neighborhood volunteers will host a free dinner for the Potrero Hill community.

The Nov. 26 event will take place from noon until 3 p.m. at St. Teresa's Church, at 19th and Connecticut Streets. A complete turkey dinner will be served, and there will also be a free table of clothing, books and household goods available.

This will be the second year that Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly is part of

the dinner. This organization is a volunteer-based non-profit group dedicated to providing friendship and outreach services to isolated elders in San Francisco. In addition to those persons enjoying Thanksgiving dinner at the St. Teresa's location, a number of volunteers will take 250 meals to elderly people on that day.

If you would like to attend the dinner, or contribute a few hours of work in the kitchen or serving the meals, or donate funds or food, please call Alison at 552-8789.

Flu Shots Available At Nabe Nov. 17

The Potrero Hill Health Center will be offering flu shots again this year. Flu shots are recommended for:

- * Persons 60 years of age or older, or their caretakers;
- * Persons with a chronic disease (especially those with heart, lung or kidney disease, diabetes, anemia and similar illnesses);
- * Medical and nursing personnel or others who have extensive contact with high-risk patients.

Flu shots will be provided at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, on Friday, Nov. 17, between 10 a.m. and noon.

Please bring your Medicare card for free flu shots. Otherwise there will be a \$2 charge.

Flu shots are also available at the Potrero Hill Health Center, 1050 Wisconsin Street (648-3022) during regular clinic hours.

Parking Proposal

(Continued from Page 1)

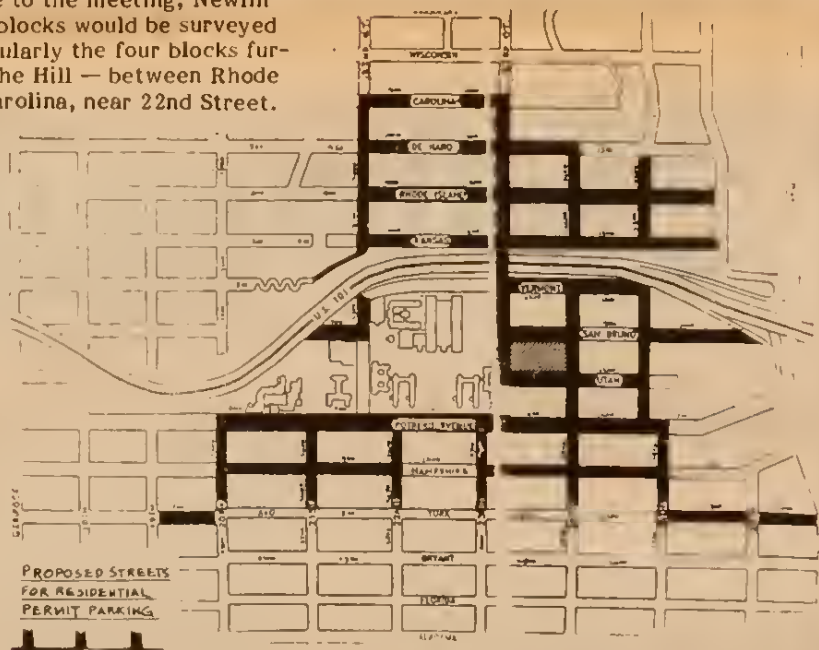
petitions for removal of individual blocks from the RPPP.

He also urged those opposed to the program to attend a DPT meeting during which the RPPP will be discussed, on Nov. 21 at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th Floor of the Veterans Building at Van Ness and McAllister Streets.

"I'm not the final word. I'm not near the final word." Newlin said to residents concerned the program would be finalized without their input.

After all the objections were registered, Newlin took suggestions for the program's time limits. Residents closest to the hospital generally favored a one hour time limit, while those further away generally preferred a two hour limit between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Newlin said a dual time limit could be implemented.

In response to the meeting, Newlin said several blocks would be surveyed again, particularly the four blocks furthest up on the Hill — between Rhode Island and Carolina, near 22nd Street.



GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (Nov. 2) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Community College — downstairs — at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps, off Bayshore.

Friends of McKinley Square, awaiting information from the Rec/Park planning committee, is going ahead with its planned cleanup party on Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m. McKinley is the open space at 20th and Vermont Streets.

Starr King Park Board meets the second Wednesday (Nov. 8) of each month in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room at 1616 - 20th St. at 7 p.m. The public is always welcome to participate in the ongoing development of the Master Plan, including such questions as whether to remove the semi-circular driveway.

Potrero Hill Parents Assn. invites interested parents, with their children, to a family (no host) Brunch at the Connecticut Yankee, 17th and Connecticut Streets, on Sunday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m. This event will replace the November meeting.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month (Nov. 13) from 6-7 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street, are open to the public. And check out the Health Center's table at the Flea Market, Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Neighborhood House.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (Nov. 14) at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro., at 7 p.m. The November meeting will focus on the election results, with discussion to be led by political pollster David Binder.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets the third Wednesday of each month (Nov. 15). This is a general meeting, open to all. Included on the agenda will be an update on the Mission Bay Project. Meetings are at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., at 7:30 p.m.

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meet the last Tuesday of the month (Nov. 28) at 7:30 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Library, 1616-20th St. The November meeting will feature a speaker from the Council of District Merchants.

S.F. General Hospital Community Meeting has been cancelled for November. Watch for the announcement of next month's meeting (Dec. 12).



Historical Landmark

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107
(415) 826-8080
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

- Al-Anon Thursdays, 6:30 pm
- Alcoholics Anonymous Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 pm
- Girls/Boys Club Mondays, 4:00 pm
- Narcotics Anonymous Wednesdays, 8:00 pm
- Omega Boys Club Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

FACILITIES:

- Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions
- Bulletin board with employment and event listings
- Gymnasium and recreational space
- Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
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Arrests Made in Recent Armed Robberies on Hill

By Michael Mattis

Police from Potrero District Station have halted a spate of juvenile armed robberies plaguing the Connecticut Street area of Potrero Hill.

Utilizing what Potrero Station Captain Tim Hettrick called an "anti-robbery saturation," officers arrested five juvenile suspects between Oct. 22 and Oct. 25.

"Once we see a pattern occurring our immediate response is to put plainclothes officers out in that area to saturate the area," said Hettrick. Between the Oct. 25 arrests and View presstime, no new robberies were reported on Potrero Hill.

The sting began the evening of Sunday Oct. 22, when officers Marquita Booth and Rebecca Minalga, in plainclothes, arrested one juvenile near 25th and Connecticut Streets. He is suspected to have been involved in at least three Potrero Hill robberies, and had a robbery warrant outstanding. When arrested he

was armed with a pistol in his back pocket, according to Hettrick.

The next evening, Monday, Oct. 23, an undercover detail, lead by Sergeant Harry Pearson, caught three juveniles in the act of robbing a victim at gunpoint in the 600 block of Connecticut. Pearson's detail had surveilled the juveniles for "about two hours," Hettrick said. Two of the juveniles were armed with pistols.

Surveillance continued the following nights and on Oct. 25 police stopped a group of suspicious juveniles and found one of them armed with a pistol.

"Now we are working on photo line-ups," said Hettrick, who noted his officers are continuing the "saturation" program in the area.

Suspects have also been arrested in the armed hold-ups of two Potrero Hill businesses, the Daily Scoop, robbed Sept. 10, and Rustico, robbed Sept. 11, Hettrick said.



Bloom's Saloon collected \$2,200 at their annual barbecue/fundraiser for the Omega Boys Club, and presented the check to Club co-founders Jaek Jacqua (left) and Joe Marshall (right) at the weekly Club meeting Oct. 17. Owner Tom Frenkel and bartender Sheila Dalton (in the middle) pointed out that the annual event celebrating the 13th anniversary of the business should bring "good luck" for the Omegas.

Ruth Passen photo



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Hill Climber Scales Everest, Ready for New Challenge

By Vas Arnautoff

When Jeff Shea says "No more 8,000-meter (26,000-plus feet) peaks for me," it's not that he's had his fill of lofty goals. He's just shifting his focus.

But more of that later.

Shea, a wiry, sandy-haired native of Potrero Hill who's just turned 40, is a mountaineer who on May 24 fulfilled a dream when he stepped onto the summit of Mount Everest, at 29,028 feet the highest a mortal can get on this planet without the aid of hallucinogens.

The long road to the summit began some 12 years ago when Shea, who runs a firm manufacturing fiberglass components for the computer industry, made his first "real" climb up Mt. Wilhelm in Papua, New Guinea. At that point the avid world traveller became an avid mountain climber seeking other peaks. Since then among the mountains he's scaled are Aconcagua in the Andes, Denali (McKinley) in Alaska, and Kilimanjaro in Africa — all leading to the biggest of all, Everest.

The goal became a reality this year when Shea joined a team organized by OTT Expeditions of Sheffield, England. It was a team of 31 climbers from eight nations, 11 of whom reached the summit.

Spurning the more popular ascent via the South Col from Nepal, the route used by the first to reach the summit in 1953 — Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing — the OTT group chose the more difficult and less frequently used North Ridge in Tibet. Last year, of those who made the attempt from the Tibetan side, six reached the summit and four died.

"We spent two months acclimatizing before I made a summit attempt," says Shea. "I climbed with two Sherpa guides leaving Camp III at 26,900 feet at midnight, climbing by the light of our headlamps. As the light of dawn came, I could see the final summit slope ahead of us . . . We were walking on out-sloping ledges or exposed new slopes. Sometimes there were no ropes, and the penalty for slipping was a 10,000 foot

fall. I think the psychological challenge was equal to, if not greater than, the physical challenge."

All members of the team survived the experience, though there were some close calls. At one point, one of the climbers slipped near the top. "He went sliding head first toward the North Face," Shea recalls. "At the last second, just before he fell off the ledge, he hit a rock which he held on to." Another teammate had a lung collapse near the summit.

"The weather is the single most difficult thing about climbing," according to Shea, and in that respect the OTT team was extremely lucky. People who know the Himalayas estimate that in a normal year there may be only a few days a season when summiting Everest is possible. This spring there were probably 20.

"Dreamlike elation!" is how Shea describes his emotions on reaching the top. "I never thought I'd be there," he says. The weather was perfect — clear, a slight breeze — and he and the Sherpas (Tsering Dorje Lama and Lhapka Gelu Sherpa) whooped and hugged and pounded each other on the back. And then, he says, arose the sobering question: "How am I going to climb down?"

Upon his return to his hometown, the Potrero Hill mountaineer was greeted with accolades. Mayor Frank Jordan proclaimed July 15 "Jeff Shea Day" in San Francisco, and he was showered with congratulatory letters and proclamations from political figures.

So, having climbed the biggest of all 8,000-meter peaks (there are 14 of them) and deciding to skip the rest ("I just feel that I don't want to risk my life again"), is Shea ready to retire? Not quite. He's got three more mountains in mind, and even though the tallest of these is only 18,510 feet high, the three do offer a challenge, though of a different kind.

In the arduous preliminaries to Everest (and on Everest), this mountaineer has climbed the highest peaks in four continents: Aconcagua, South America; Denali, North America; Kilimanjaro, Africa; Everest, Asia. And he has done it on his first attempt at each. There are three left: Elbrus, Europe; Kosciuszko, Australia; and Vinson, Antarctica.

The "Seven Summits" (as they are referred to by mountaineers), Shea admits, "is kind of an artificial goal in a way — a lark." Others have done the "Seven." But adding spice to the challenge for him is the possibility that he might be the first to accomplish this feat on his first attempt at every one. "Whatever kind of distinction that is, I don't know," Shea says with a grin. "But what the hell, I've gone this far . . ." He's thinking of finishing the "Seven" in Antarctica in the Southern Hemisphere summer of 1996-97.



Hill mountaineer Jeff Shea celebrates on the summit of Mt. Everest on May 24. With sherpas Tsering Dorje Lama (behind Shea) and Lhapka Gelu Sherpa (who took the photo) the Potrero Hill resident reached the top from the more difficult Tibet side on his first attempt on the highest peak in the Himalayas and the world.





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What do the Marx Brothers "Animal Crackers" and Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" have in common? They're both being featured in a course on the American Jewish comic film offered free of charge by the Bureau of Jewish Education at the Jewish Community Library, 601 - 14th Ave. (at Balboa). The course features video screenings and discussion. On Nov. 14, "Animal Crackers;" Dec. 5, "An American Matchmaker;" Jan. 23, "To Be or Not To Be"; Feb. 6, "The Great Dictator"; Mar. 12 "The Flrisco Kid"; and Apr. 9, "Annie Hall". Enrollment is limited. To register, call 751-6983, ext. 129.

Congressional Representatives Ron Dellums and Nancy Pelosi will hold a public hearing on economic insecurity and unemployment at the State Bldg., 505 Van Ness Ave., Nov. 11, noon - 4 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Full Employment Coalition. For more info call 397-4911.

The Gray Panthers of San Francisco are sponsoring a discussion with several women who attended the NGO forum in Beijing recently. The event takes place Nov. 18, Western Park Apartments, 1280 Laguna St., 1:30-4 p.m. Hill resident Ruth Davidow is one of the featured speakers. Call 552-8800 for more info.

The Girl Scout Troop at Potrero Hill Middle School is looking for a female volunteer to assist teacher Linda Bartling, who is especially in need of help for the Saturday events and outings. Call her at the school, 695-5905.

The California Rare Fruit Growers travel to the Hill for a meeting and seminar hosted by the Potrero Hill Garden Club, Nov. 11, 1-4 p.m. at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. The meeting is free and open to the public, with a plant raffle and rare fruit tasting to follow. Dr. Tom Daniels, Curator and Chairperson, Dept. of Botany at the Calif. Academy of Sciences, is guest speaker. For more info contact Pat Branch, (510) 654-6001 (Rare Fruit Growers), or the local Garden Club, Mia Amato, 285-6807 (after 1 p.m.).

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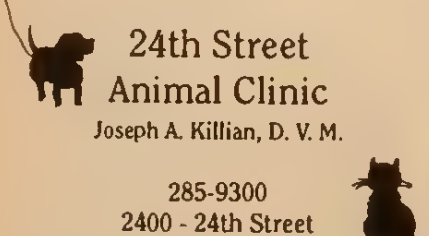
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The American Indian Film Festival celebrates its 20th year with screenings of 50 new works by and about Native Americans. Showings take place in and around the Bay Area, with a 1930 silent classic "The Silent Enemy," recreating the Ojibway Indian life in the time before white settlers landed in the Hudson Bay region. This showing, Nov. 9-11, takes place at the Palace of Fine Arts. An awards program Nov. 11 at the Palace of Fine Arts will feature appearances by leading Native American actors and directors, plus a full evening of music, dance and retrospective film clips. For Festival tickets and more info call 554-0525.

Volunteers are needed by the Arthritis Foundation to help with a variety of activities: To assist with public education forums and health fairs, answer telephones or handle correspondence, while others can assist with special events. Call (800) 464-6240 for more info.

A free workshop on Alzheimer's Disease is being offered by the UCSF/Mt. Zion Center on Aging, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 3333 California St. The workshop will focus on normal memory loss, signs and symptoms of the disease and diagnosis, treatment and research. Experts will discuss legal and financial issues. Pre-registration is required since seating is limited. Call 750-5342 for info and to register.


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Employees at UCSF will present their first annual Holiday Crafts Faire Nov. 15 at 1855 Folsom St., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Featured will be handmade arts and crafts by employee crafters and community artists. Admission is free.

Individuals interested in leading San Francisco Zoo tours, teaching summer school or bringing the ZooMobile to Area classrooms are invited to attend the Zoo's Docent Training Orientation Nov. 8, 10 a.m. Call 753-7073 for more info and how to register.

If you miss your daily fix of Far Side cartoons, the 11th annual Run to the Far Side on Nov. 26 is the event for you. This tribute to the zany cartoon creations of Gary Larson is expected to attract more than 15,000 runners and Far Side comic fans to Golden Gate Park. Costumes honoring Larson characters are a race tradition, and a costume contest follows the race. Proceeds from the event support the California Academy of Sciences' environmental education education and research programs. Registration fees should be postmarked by Nov. 17. For entry and other info call 564-0532.

The S.F. Recycling Program is looking for volunteers to help with waste prevention and recycling projects in San Francisco. Assist in promoting Christmas tree recycling, keeping the environment in mind during the holiday season, reducing waste while shopping and many other projects. Attend a volunteer orientation meeting on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at 1145 Market St., Suite 401. For additional info call 554-3406.

A gala celebration of the arts is hosted by the community of writers, composers and fine artists who are members of St. Gregory's Church, Saturday, Nov. 11, 7:30 p.m. at 500 De Haro St. Readings, choral music and fine art viewing featuring new and published work will be accompanied by a wine and cheese reception. The event is free and the public is welcome. Call 255-8100 for more info.

A dance/theater performance, "Kristallnacht, Night of Broken Glass," will run at Theater Artaud through Nov. 12. "Kristallnacht," written and performed by Nancy Karp and her company, is based on the events of Nov. 9, 1938 when Hitler and his SS organized actions against German Jews throughout Germany. Some 30,000 Jewish men were taken from their homes and sent to concentration camps, and 267 synagogues were destroyed by fire and more than 7,000 Jewish-owned shops and businesses were destroyed in one night. Call 621-7797 for information and reservations.

"Can You Do Without a Lawyer?" This and other questions will be answered at two seminars offered by the Barristers Club at City College of San Francisco. The first seminar on Nov. 8 focuses on "Small Claims Court and Landlord/Tenant Law, and the second seminar on Nov. 16 is "Money Problems and Consumer Protection." Admission is free and no registration is required. Call 239-3580 for more info.

"Beyond the Borders," a presentation of paintings by four Korean-American women artists appears at the SOMAR Gallery, 934 Brannan St., through Nov. 22. Gallery hours are Tues.-Sat. from 12-4 p.m. For more info call 552-2131.

"Portrait of a Community: Noe Valley Through the Eyes of Noe Valley Voice Photographers" is a special exhibit at the Main Library, in Civic Center. The photos highlight the best published by the Noe Valley Voice over its 17 year history. For more info call Charles Kennard, 457-1147.



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Family Center Offers Help To Childcare Providers

By Lysa Allman

Potrero Hill is the new home of Edgewood Family Center, a facility designed to address the needs of families throughout the City, and in particular those involved in kinship care.

Because of families with absent birth parents, deceased parents, or parents who are incarcerated, there are an estimated 19,000 children in the City of San Francisco living with other relatives. Many of these relatives are elderly and/or the children's grandparents. These individuals are referred to as "Kinship Givers."

In the Kinship Care Program, givers are provided with support services and groups, training, recreational activities for the givers and children, and community workers in the home for the more isolated caregivers.

Lillian Johnson, director of the program, says that there are nearly 1,700 childcare givers who basically receive no financial support and are offered very few services because they are older and many children's programs prefer not to deal with older individuals. As a result, these caregivers and children are sometimes unnecessarily placed into the welfare system. "The way that relative caregivers are dealt with in this country is an abomination," says Johnson. "They should not be in the child welfare system as they are not neglecting and abusing the children. They need support and services and it can be done in the private sector. We think we can do it more sensitively and cheaper." As a former Director of Child Welfare for the City and County for 10 years, Johnson stresses that kinship caregivers are the most underserved group in the country.

Edgewood's choice of its new location at 1 Rhode Island Street, at Division, where they have been open since April 17 of this year, reflected concerns from Edgewood's administrative homebase in the Sunset District that Potrero Hill was an area of the city that did not receive much assistance, especially in the schools. For schools Edgewood offers programs such as PIP, the Primary Intervention Program, in place in 21 schools

throughout the city, and the Special Friend Program, which identifies children (most of which have serious problems) who need an alternative to the classroom.

In operation since 1851, Edgewood Children's Center in the Sunset and now the new Family Center on Rhode Island, are a full collaboration of services, offering a crises phone line for homeless families, tutorial programs, computer programs, and meeting rooms for small community groups who lack meeting space. Also offered is a continuum of services, such as a clothes closet for families in the program, with new clothes from stores such as Esprit, Mervyn's and Ross, and a food bank agency for those who require food boxes. Funding for Edgewood comes from their Department of Social Services contract and from grants and endowments.

When asked how Potrero Hill neighbors can assist at Edgewood, Johnson replied that people can start by identifying families who need support and inform those individuals of Edgewood's programs. In addition, their childcare center is always able to utilize volunteers for child supervision while parents or caregivers attend meetings and seminars. "Basically," Johnson says, "we need people to be interested in the programs, to refer families in need, and to advocate for us to expand and build a system in which we can take leadership and take all of the 1,700 childcare givers out of the welfare system."

Individuals need not live in the area of either center in order to receive services. For further information contact Lillian Johnson at 865-3050, or Virginia Bucello, Volunteer Coordinator, at 865-3080.

"CAN'T HELP LOVIN..."



Potrero Hill filmmaker Alix Umen will present her new documentary, "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man," at the 11th Film Arts Festival Nov. 1-5 and Nov. 10, at the Castro Theatre, and UC Theatre in Berkeley. A national cablecast on Free Speech TV from Nov. 18-Dec. 1 will include some of the films shown during these dates.

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2,500-Year-Old Drama Has Staying Power at MET

By Michael Mattis

Director Lewis Campbell's Multi-Ethnic Theatre Company has brought Euripides' 2,410-year-old tragedy, "The Trojan Women," to life at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House for a three week run ending Nov. 10.

The ruins of the citadel of fallen Troy are laid out on a slate-grey set consisting of three simple stone walls. A well that doubles as an altar stands downstage right, flanked behind by a pair of portals, one with a pointed arch, suggesting a church door. While these shattered stone walls are evocative of pre-classical Asia minor — where ancient Troy stood before the Greeks razed it to the ground — the scene could be any stone-built city of the old world, from Berlin to Baghdad.

After a siege lasting 10 years, the city of Troy has at last fallen to the invading Greeks. The Trojan women rest amid the ruins of the citadel, discussing their fate. The question is not whether they are to be enslaved but, rather, to whom, among the soldiers of the victorious Greeks, they are to be enslaved. Hecuba (Afi-Tiombe Kambon), queen of Troy, laments the loss of her city and bemoans the fate of her daughter, the virgin priestess Cassandra (Gabrielle Mortarjemi).

Through the Greek soldier Talthybius (James Otis Brown), a kind-hearted veteran on a terrible mission, Hecuba learns she is to be enslaved to Odysseus. Cassandra, to the dismay of Hecuba, is to be taken by Agamemnon, the Spartan king who lead his army against Troy, "for his own bed at night."

Talthybius' other duty is more horrible still. Odysseus, he tells Hecuba, has ordered her grandson, Astynax, the child of her son Hector, put to death. The child must die in a ritual ethnic cleansing so the children of the Greeks may feel safe from the rage of Hector's descendants.

With its themes of war, rape, slavery, lust and loss, the play maintains its poignancy even today. It says to us, even after two-and-a-half millennia, that human evolution, if possible at all, lags far behind material progress.

Director Campbell drives this point home with a sledgehammer in his production by adding a curtain-riser, "Sarajevo Voices," to the original script and by using the modern war-machine sound effects and radio war-correspondent reports. Campbell also breaks the

classical chorus up into distinct parts, assigning six actors to play the chorus' different voices, with one voice announcing from a loudspeaker in an attempt to give the play, as the director says, "the recurring sense of a broadcast."

"Voices" begins with radio newscasts recorded from National Public Radio. The news anchors speak of the tragedies of ethnic cleansing. A reporter who also plays the god Poseidon (Cy Abdel) enters with a tape-recorder. He is harangued by a group of Bosnian Muslim refugees who tell of the Serbs' slaughter of them and complain that the rest of Europe and the Americans have done nothing but watch the Serbs' terrible progress from the sidelines.

"The Trojan Women" begins as Athena, the Greeks' patron goddess (Rina Natin) enters and the reporter takes on the role of the god Poseidon, Patron of Troy. Angry because the Greeks have defiled her temple, she makes a pact with her erstwhile enemy, Poseidon, to scatter and destroy the Greek army as it sails away home across the Adriatic back to Greece.

The contemporary feel, fed by the actors' modern costumes, the modern sound effects of helicopters landing and trucks driving to and fro, lasts throughout the production.

"The idea," says Campbell, "is to give (Euripides' 'Trojan Women') an impact on a modern audience, without changing the words of the original."

A noble effort, but in this Campbell underestimates both his audience and the staying power of Euripides' words. The additions are nice touches at times but unnecessary window dressing in the end.

Of the performances, Afi-Tiombe Kambon as Hecuba stands out. Her folksy, sing-song lilt lends itself well to the classical dialogue. In her performance the pain of loss seems quite real.

Erin Banuelos plays a slinky, strapping, stripper of a Helen and in James Otis Brown's Talthybius we can see what it is to be a good man in a hard place.

HILL ARTIST EXHIBITS



Potrero Hill resident Karen Richards will be one of the exhibitors at the Metal-smiths' Fair, Nov. 4 & 5 at Ft. Mason Conference Center, Bldg. A, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Above is an example of her work, "Bird Song," in copper, brass and pearls.

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A variety of Potrero Hill based businesses and organizations were among the many groups enjoying a very warm October day at the Daniel Webster schoolyard the 14th of the month, at the Potrero Hill Festival. Artisans and craftspeople displayed their wares to an audience of hundreds of people, while others waited their turns to take a cable car tour of the Hill. Others enjoyed meeting neighbors and friends, and listening to the variety of music sung and performed by local artists and children. The event, produced by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, was also sponsored by local businesses.

Photos by Ruth Passen and Judy Baston

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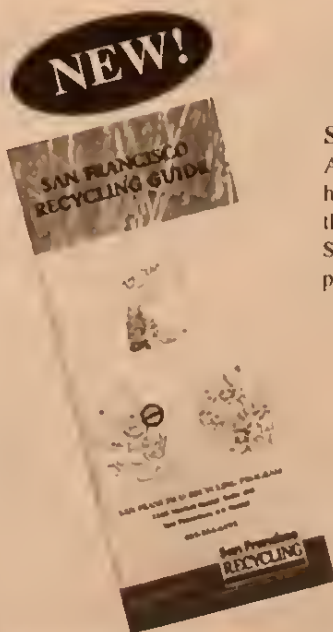
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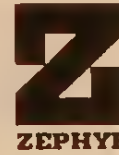
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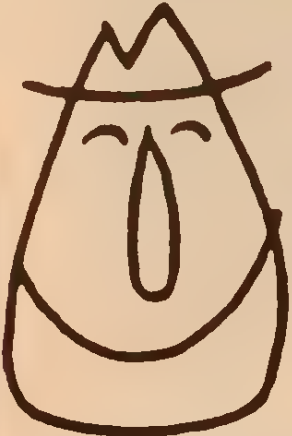
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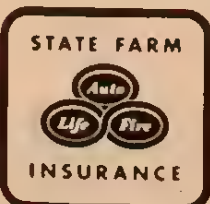
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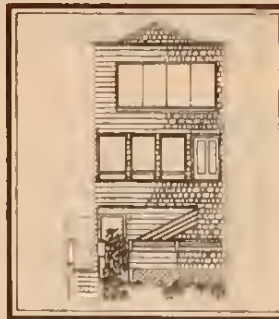
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2 story 2 bedroom townhouse with wood parquet floors, garage, garden, and Southern views in Potrero's Parkview Heights. Asking \$195,000

86 Blair Terrace

Designer 2 bedroom end townhouse with custom finishes, including faux finished walls, on a double lot in Parkview Heights. An extremely rare find with very large rear and side yards, featuring terraced landscaping, shade trees, waterfall and koi pond. Asking \$210,000



Just Sold



28 Littlefield
Matthew represented his client in the purchase of this 2 bedroom townhouse with garage in Parkview Heights



Matthew Borland
Ford Real Estate

BUYERS' & SELLERS' BROKERAGE 285-3185 Home 824-7200 Office

POTRERO HILL REAL ESTATE

Offered by Linda Clark



Linda Clark

Phone

334-1880

or 255-2205

25 Year Resident

and Potrero Hill

Real Estate Specialist

COLDWELL BANKER



535 Mississippi St.

Two story, Bay view home with fancy inlaid parquet floors, formal dining room, 'country' kitchen and garage. PLUS it has a separate office/den with Bay views too!



1096 Rhode Island St.

Built by the Schoenstein pipe organ family, this house reflects old world craftsmanship. The woodwork detail is exceptional! So are the views!



SUSAN & PAUL

HAVE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAM IN TOWN ON YOUR SIDE!

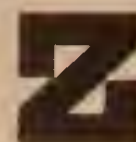
SOPHISTICATED & STYLISH VIEW CONDOMINIUM

Custom designed two story top floor unit with expansive west views. Three bedrooms, three baths, three decks, two fireplaces, garage, and deeded yard. Dramatic private master suite with fireplace and two decks. Top-of-the-line upgrades include granite counters, hardwood floors, custom built-ins and drapes, crown moldings, and recessed lighting.

\$349,000



CALL : Paul Holzman 552-0129 Ext. 128 Direct
Susan Olk 552-0129 Ext. 155 Direct



ZEPHYR REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENTS, 4200 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

